No. of Exchanges to be commissioned from 1-4-92 to 31-12-92.

1.	Thane RULU	4·0 K
2.	Vile Parle—3	3·0 K
3.	Marol—4	10·0 K
4.	Mankhurd—2	2·0 K
5.	Cooperage—6	2·0 K
6.	Malabar Hill—3	4·0 K
7.	Thane Cherai RLU	1·0 K
8.	Mumbra RLU	1·0 K
9.	Chembur RLU	3·0 K
10.	Panvel RLU	1·0 K
11.	Byculla RLU	1·0 K

This Commissioning programme depends on the timely receipt of equipment and printed circuit boards.

Working cost of post card/inland letter card

2320. DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the working costs of Post Card and Inland Letter Card;

(b) how much loss Government incur annually on these two articles;

(c) whether there is any proposal to abolish Post Card; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof?

TEH DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU):

(a) The working costs are as under :

Postcard	124.69 paise per unit
Inland letter card	140.84 paise per unit

(b) position of loss is as under :

Postcard	Rs. 79.09 crores per annum
Inland letter card	Rs. 57.36 crores per annum

(c) No, Sir.

(d) In view of reply to (c) above, question of details does not arise.

Grant of Autonomy to regional telecom circles

2321. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to grant autonomy to the Regional Telecom Circles as a part of the restructuring of the Telecom Sector; and

(b) if so, how it is likely to affect the Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd.?

TEH DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) and (b) The report submitted by the High Level Committee (Athreya Committee) set up for recommending the most appropriate structure for the Telecom Department is still under consideration of the Government. Organisational structure as finally decided will be applicable for the territorial Telecom Circles as well as the Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd.

Telephone connections to village Panchayats

2322. SHRI SHANTI TYAGI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Village Panchayats which have been provided telephone facility, State-wise so far; and

(b) whether Government have any plan to provide this facility to all Panchayats in the country; and

(c) if so, the details thereof stating time and allocation of money?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) A total of 48,922 Village Panchayats have been provided with telephone facility as on 30-11-1991. State-wise details are given in enclosed statement. (See below( )

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Government have planned to provide telephone faciilty to all Panchayat Villages in the country progressively by 31-3-1995 Rs. 2,600 crores have been allocated for this work.

Statement

Status of gram panchayats provided with Telephones facility as on 30-11-1991.

S.No.	Circle/State	Gram Panchayats provided with Telephone facility.
1	Andhra Pradesh	4945
2	Assam	459
3	Bihar	5141
4	Gujarat	2859
	Dadra Nagar Daman & Diu	16
5	Haryana	1310
6	Himachal Pradesh	845
7	Jammu & Kashmir	382
8	Karnataka	3824
9	Kerala L. Deep Island	981
10	Madhya Pradesh	4790
11	Maharashtra	4714
12	Goa	106